

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

ARAE-00 AID-05 EB-08 TRSE-00 /069 W

-----111613Z 126297 /40

P R 111430Z MAR 77

FM AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 759

INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA PRIORITY

AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAO PAULO 0580

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, BR

SUBJ: GOVERNOR REVEALS PRESIDENT GEISEL'S PLANS FOR NATIONAL  
POLITICAL REFORM

RER: SAO PAULO 0578

1. IN THE CONVERSATION MARCH 10 REPORTED REFTEL, GOVERNOR PAULO EGYDIO ALSO RESPONDED TO A QUESTION ABOUT PRESIDENT GEISEL'S PLANS FOR A NATIONAL POLITICAL REFORM. THE GOVERNOR SAID THE PRESIDENT HAD TOLD HIM IN BRASILIA THAT HIS OBJECTIVE WAS INDIRECT ELECTIONS OF THE STATE GOVERNORS, IN RETURN FOR WHICH THE GOVERNMENT WAS PREPARED TO AGREE TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A COUNCIL OF STATE WITH REPRESENTATION ON IT FROM THE OPPOSITION PARTY, THE ARMED FORCES, THE GOVERNMENT AND THE ARENA. THE GOVERNOR WAS NOT VERY SPECIFIC ABOUT THE METHOD OF INDIRECT ELECTION OR ABOUT THE COUNCIL OF STATE'S EXACT COMPOSITION AND ROLE. HE LAUDED THE PRESIDENT'S DECISION TO LET THE NATIONAL CONGRESS WORK OUT THE NATIONAL REFORM SCHEME AND NOTED THAT CONSULTATIONS HAD ALREADY BEGUN BETWEEN SENATOR PORTELLA AND MDB PRESIDENT ULYSSES GUIMARAES. THE GOVERNOR MAINTAINED THAT THERE WAS A GOOD CHANCE THAT THE CONGRESS WOULD REACH AGREEMENT ON A NATIONAL POLITICAL REFORM SCHEME, ALTHOUGH THERE  
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WERE RADICALS AND INTRANSIGENTS ON BOTH SIDES. THE MODERATES WOULD EVENTUALLY PREVAIL. THE PRESIDENT'S PROPOSAL WAS, TO BE SURE, NOT AN OPENING (ABERTUREA) BUT IT WAS A SIGNIFICANT STEP FORWARD. TRUE LIBERALIZATION OF THE EXISTING GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE COULD NOT BE ACHIEVED NOW, AS THE GOVERNOR IMPLIED THAT HE WOULD FAVOR. FULL DEMOCRACY WAS NOT POSSIBLE NOW, AS SOME POLITICIANS DESIRED, BUT PRESIDENT GEISEL COULD COME TO THE END OF

HIS TERM WITH THE SATISFACTION THAT HE HAD MADE SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS TOWARD DEMOCRACY. AND WHAT IF THE CONGRESS DID NOT REACH AGREEMENT ON THE PRESIDENT'S NATIONAL POLITICAL REFORM AND SHOULD REFUSE TO ENDORSE INDIRECT ELECTIONS OF GOVERNORS? THEN THE REFORMS WOULD BE DECREED BY EXECUTIVE FIAT, THE GOVERNOR SAID.

2. COMMENT: THE SAO PAULO PRESS MARCH 11 REPORTS THAT MDB PRESIDENT GUIMARAES SAID THAT SENATOR PORTELLA HAD PRESENTED AS HIS OWN IDEA THE PACKAGE OF INDIRECT ELECTIONS IN RETURN FOR MODIFICATION OF EXCEPTIONAL ACT AI-5 AND THE CREATION OF SOME CONSTITUTIONAL INSTRUMENT OR COUNCIL SAFEGUARDING THE STATE. THE SENATOR HAD SAID THAT THE PRESIDENT HAD NOT YET DECIDED WHETHER THERE SHOULD BE INDIRECT ELECTIONS OR NOT.

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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**TAGS:** PINT, PGOV, BR, US, (MARTINS, PAULO EGYDIO)  
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